



City Councilmember  
**Carl DeMaio**

News Release

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of 2007 Wildfires**

**DeMaio Issues Progress Report on the Rebuild  
Effort and Launches Performance Audit of  
City's Fire Prevention Plans**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009

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SAN DIEGO – On the two year anniversary of the day the 2007 Wildfires reached his community of Rancho Bernardo, Councilmember Carl DeMaio today released a progress report of the recovery process. DeMaio also announced the launch of a comprehensive performance audit to review the city's Fire Prevention Program—and the launch of an improved evacuation program for senior citizens.

"We should commemorate the losses from two years ago by holding our city government accountable for helping residents rebuild – and by showing measurable improvements in the city's fire prevention efforts," said DeMaio.

DeMaio was joined by San Diego City Auditor, Eduardo Luna, in detailing the pro-active performance audit which is set to launch in 2010 and will take approximately five months to complete.

The Fire Prevention Program was identified as a "high risk activity" because of increased expenditures and public exposure associated with fire prevention. The Program covers activities such as brush management, building codes and inspections.

The performance audit will examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the Program and produce recommendations for strengthening controls associated with it. It will also provide city officials and the public with measured progress of the city's fire prevention efforts since the 2007 Wildfires.

To help in better preparing for an emergency and improve the way evacuations are handled, Valerie Brown of RB United unveiled a new initiative to help evacuate Rancho Bernardo's considerable senior community in the event of a disaster. The plan coordinates transportation for the seniors that do not drive or who need special assistance, and is a result of months of community input. .

DeMaio also released data on the rebuild effort which showed that of the 323 homes destroyed in Rancho Bernardo, 235 permits have been issued by the city's Development Services Department for residents to move forward with construction – **and 188 homes have been completed.**

"While today is a celebration of the progress we've made, it is also a time to remember to steer the course in making sure that if we are faced with another emergency, we are only better prepared for the emergency," DeMaio added. "As we reflect on progress we've made over the past two years, I couldn't be more proud of how this community – my community - has come together to recover, rebuild, and heal."

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